

United States Department of Interior

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TEMPORARY WATER TRANSFER(S) WITHIN THE
SACRAMENTO RIVER AND TEHAMA-COLUSA AND
CORNING CANALS SERVICE AREAS

Background

The proposed action is approval, without further NEPA review, of single year, historic, and routine transfers within the Sacramento Valley that meet specified criteria designed to ensure minimal environmental impact and that total no more than 75,000 acre-feet per year of CVP water during the period March 1, 2000 through February 28, 2005. The transfer(s) will be in accordance with Reclamation's current water transfer guidelines. The water will be made available in the Sacramento River, Colusa Basin Drain, Corning and Tehama-Colusa Canals for the present consumptive use of agriculture, incidental municipal and industrial use, and for wildlife refuges. No facility construction or improvements will be allowed as part of the temporary transfers permitted under this program.

The proposed program of transfers addressed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) extends an on-going program of minor transfers which had previously been approved under Environmental Assessments entitled *Temporary Water Transfer(s) within the Corning Canal and Tehama-Colusa Canal Service Areas* and *Temporary Water Transfer(s) within the Sacramento River Service Areas* which were prepared annually. The proposed program will differ from the past programs only in the duration of the program, a step being taken to reduce administrative costs. Transfers under the proposed program are authorized by, and would be in full compliance with, Section 3405(a) of Public Law 102-575, Title 34, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

Findings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for:

1. Transfer(s) of water (1) between existing Central Valley Project (CVP) water service and settlement contractors on the Sacramento River; (2) from existing CVP water service and settlement contractors on the Sacramento River and Tehama-Colusa (TC) Canal to contractors on the Colusa Basin Drain; (3) from existing CVP water service and settlement contractors on the Sacramento River to the Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges; and (4)

from CVP water service and settlement contractors on the Sacramento River to existing CVP water service contractors on the TC Canal and Corning Canal if those transfers meet the criteria listed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA).

2. Transfer(s) of water (1) between existing CVP water service contractors on the Corning Canal and TC Canal; (2) from existing CVP water service contractors on the Corning and TC Canals to the Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges; and (3) from CVP water service contractors on the Corning and TC Canals to existing CVP water service and settlement contractors on the Sacramento River if those transfers meet the criteria specified in the attached EA.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

1. The transfers water will not result in the irrigation of any new or additional land.
2. The transfers will not result in any new construction or changes in existing operations.
3. The transfers will not cause any measurable change in the flow in the Sacramento River or the Delta.
4. The criteria for approval of transfers under this action will prevent adverse effects on either listed or unlisted fish or wildlife and their critical habitat.
5. The criteria for approval of transfers under this action will prevent adverse effects on cultural resources and unique geologic features.
6. No Indian Trust Assets would be affected.
7. The program is consistent with federal policies on Environmental Justice.

Recommended:

Natalie L. Wolder
Repayment Specialist

Date: 5/10/00

Concur:

Donald A. Bultema
Chief, Water and Lands Division

Date: 5/10/00

Concur:

Buford Holt
Environmental Officer

Date: 5/10/00

Approved:



Manager, Northern California Area Office

Date: 5/22/00

Regional Environmental Officer

Date: _____

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